GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)
General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

CONTENTS FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 1, 1920

1. Lucerne: The Hostess of Switzerland.
2. Neither Wars Nor Rents Disturb This Curious People.
3. The Temple Cities of Japan.
4. How Sugar Made Cuba a World El Dorado.
5. When the Near East Is Civilized.

Photograph by Edith S. Watson. Used by permission National Geographic Society, © 1920

THE SUGAR-CANE ORCHESTRA: CUBA (See Bulletin No. 4)

Everything moves to "the tune" of sugar in Cuba. Here is a little "band" of juvenile cane-cutters in the field. Sugar in the form of candy is not so popular with these island lads as the pure juice of the cane sucked from the stick. In the background is seen the growing cane.

Tear off along this line if desired

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

Lucerne: The Hostess of Switzerland

LUCERNE, scene of important conferences among Allied statesmen, is a precious jewel among Swiss cities, with the lake of the same name for its setting—a lake where varied beauty and historic association are blended.

On that lake's shores William Tell is reputed to have exhibited his marksmanship to the discomfiture of Gessler, and on its waters tradition holds he won his revenge by seizing the rudder of the vessel on which that tyrant held him prisoner and guided it to the rock where he aimed, not at an apple, but at his oppressor's heart.

Less picturesque, but more significant, was the formulation of the Perpetual League. That famous instrument not only was the antecedent of the Swiss Confederation, but marked a mile-post in humanity's political freedom.

Two Bridges Also Are Art Galleries

Beloved by tourists and crowded with them in normal years, Lucerne has retained many of its ancient aspects. Its crumbling wall with its watch towers give it a medieval stamp; two of its covered wooden bridges also serve as art gallaries. On the walls of one are depicted scenes of the city's history and the other has paintings of the Dance of Death.

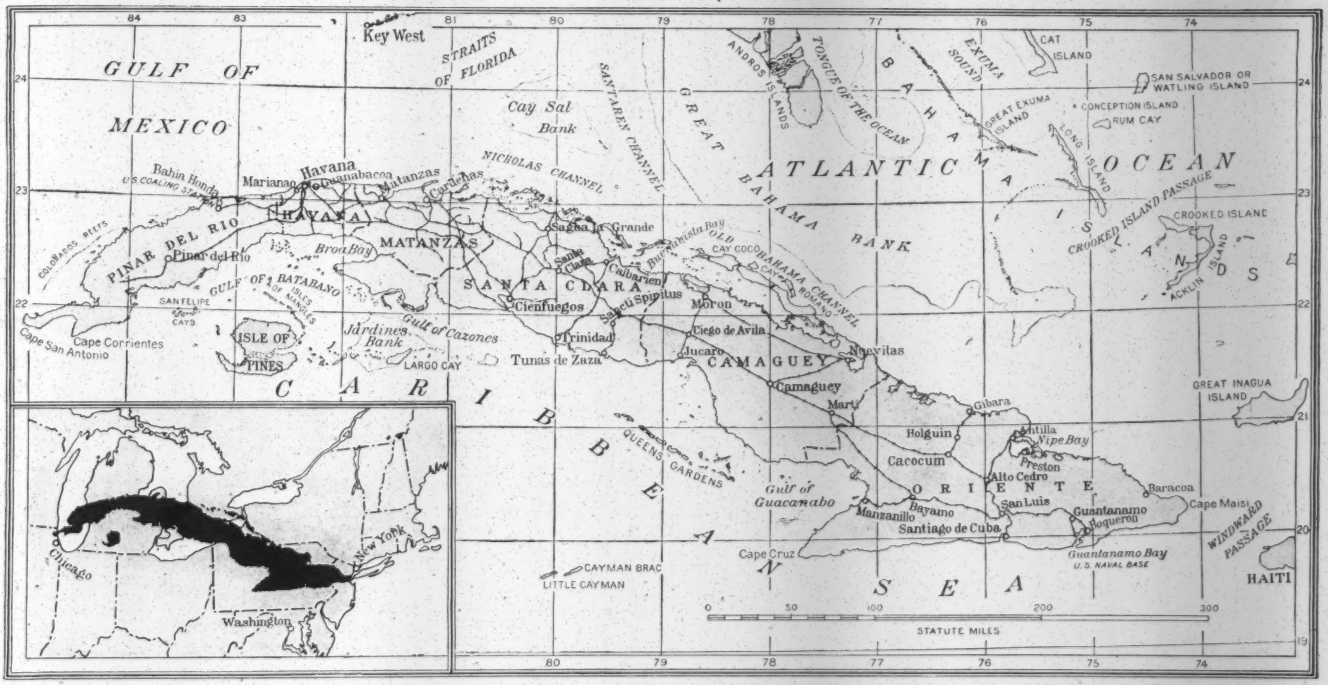
Perhaps the most famed art object of the city is the Lion of Lucerne, considered by one critic "the most appropriate and touching monument in existence." In a grotto, hewn from the natural rock, is a dying lion, pierced by a lance, with his paw protecting the fleur-de-lis of the Bourbons. Thorwaldsen, Danish sculptor, designed this tribute to the Swiss Guard who died in seeking to protect Louis XVI against the mob of Paris revolutionists that stormed the Tuileries in 1792.

Lucerne is situated on the Reuss where it rushes from the cross-like Lucerne. The city grew as the St. Gotthard Pass improved, first from mule path to carriage road, and from roadway to a railway tunnel. By the St. Gotthard line Lucerne is 59 miles from Basel and 180 miles from Milan. Its citizen population is less than 50,000, supplemented by nearly as many more tourists yearly before the war. Its chief industry lies in its more than threescore tourist hotels, and the establishments which supply tourist needs.

World-Famous Views Easy of Access

The mountain views from Lucerne are thought by many travelers to be unsurpassed in any Swiss city. Cut in half by the river, it lies in a natural amphitheater, overlooking the blue expanse of the lake, which is dotted by craft of many kinds. The Pilatus range rises to the southwest, and the Rigi Mountain spans the eastern horizon. World-famous panoramas may be seen by walking in almost any direction out of the city.

UMI



Drawn by A. H. Bumstead. Used by permission National Geographic Society, © 1920

A MAP OF CUBA AND THE NEIGHBORING BAHAMA ISLANDS

The small inset shows the length of the island, comparable to the distance between New York and Chicago. In width it averages only sixty miles, and no place on the island is more than forty miles from the open sea. Among its chief commercial assets are its numerous excellent roadsteads. In area Cuba is equal to Pennsylvania, in the number of inhabitants it equals Georgia.

Tear off along this line if desired.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

Neither Wars Nor Rents Disturb This Curious People

THE cone-dwellers of Asia Minor, technically known as the Troglodytes of Cappadocia, are harrassed not at all by the housing problem, for they live in nature-made apartment houses, fashioned by trickling streams and volcanic violence.

Nor is it likely that they are concerned in the least about their political fate, for, though they inhabit what is characterized as the "cradle of civilization" they are more primitive in some particulars than the most benighted tribes of Africa or the South Pacific.

A communication by J. R. Sitlington Sterrett to the National Geographic Society describes the Cappadocians as follows:

"Residing within a stone's throw, metaphorically speaking, of the wonderful civilization which flourished on the banks of the Nile 6,000 years ago; of the mighty kingdoms of Assyria and Babylonia which arose in the valleys of the Euphrates and the Tigris, their power and splendor dazzling the world 2,000 years before the Christian era; and at the very threshold of ancient Greece, with its unrivaled culture and political advancement, the Troglodytes of Cappadocia still retain toward their fellow-men an attitude of mind akin to that which obtained in the Stone Age, when there was no such thing as human society, but every man was his own law and the mortal enemy of his neighbor.

Afford a Chance to Study Primitive Man

"The only difference between the society of these Troglodytes and that of primitive man consists in this, that primitive man did not brook the presence of any other man, while here the isolation of the clan takes the place of the isolation of the individual.

"The caves, cones, and cliff dwellings of the Cappadocian Troglodytes of both ancient and modern times are to be found in greatest number in the shadow of Asia Minor's loftiest peak, snow-clad Mt. Argaeus (called by the Turks Erjias Dagh), an extinct volcano whose eruption in the dim past laid the foundations and supplied the material for these remarkable habitations, while the Halys River of the ancients (now known as Kizil Irmak) in succeeding centuries became their tireless architect.

"The practice of living in caves, in cliffs, or in excavated cavities in the open plain is to be traced to a state of society which we of today have some difficulty in depicting to ourselves. And yet the central thought of the Troglodytic habit is the basic principle upon which ancient civilization was founded.

Illustrate a By-Gone Epoch of Society

"That basic thought was absolute isolation—a thought which is wholly antagonistic to our modern conceptions of society, whether we have in mind

UMI

Many quaint houses remain, including the wooden structures whose inflammability gave rise to curious fire regulations. Wood for building could not lie in the streets more than twenty-four hours. No smithy could work between vespers and early mass. Every citizen was a potential fire fighter and the citizens' brigade when called to a fire had to await word from the mayor for dismissal. Women were required to aid at night by holding lights in the doorways. Until two centuries ago the city fathers were assigned special duties in fire fighting.

THIS FIVE-STORY CONE-DWELLING WAS A FOUR-FAMILY FLAT (See Bulletin No. 2)

The three doorways on the ground floor and still a fourth doorway in the third story (to which access was had by means of the usual finger-and-toe holes) show that at least four families were sheltered by the friendly cone before its side walls disintegrated.

Tear off along this line if desired.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

The Temple Cities of Japan

MANY feet have been treading their way to the shrines in the temple cities of Japan in recent months.

Eager American tourists strolled along the shady streets of Nikko to the tombs of the Shoguns and drank in the indescribably beautiful scenery, their lips all the while murmuring the Japanese word kekko (beautiful), which the Japanese say one never learns to pronounce until he has seen the city of Nikko. In Tokyo, called the Flowery Great Yedo, the capital of the Empire, they saw the Imperial palace and the remains of the former glory of the Shoguns, a family of military governors who were the virtual rulers of Japan for several centuries, and in Kyoto they gained an idea of one or two of the 300 Buddhist temples and 80 Shinto shrines.

Making a Prayer Do Perpetual Duty

In the temples of Tokyo many bits of American pocket money went to a priest for writing a pretty prayer on a slip of paper, which the visitor, in true pilgrim fashion, pressed to his forehead and to his breast and then fastened to the temple wall in order that it might be a perpetual petition. There are 30,000 deities to whom devout Japanese write, so a few Americans' pleas scarcely clogged the celestial postal service.

There were many native pilgrims on the way to the shrines. During the summer months when the crops have been taken care of, the village folk, though they have the temples of their own patron deity and the fox god, feel that they must send out a pilgrim or two to the sacred mountains and holy places of Japan to worship in behalf of those who cannot go, and so they provide a fund for his expenses.

Nor does the emissary travel in state. Life for him loses most of its complexities. He is equipped with a cheap white cotton shirt that can be easily washed, tight-fitting trousers and a loose white cotton jacket which he tucks in with a girdle. He wears an enormous broad, stiff straw hat, and on his back he carries a piece of matting which serves him as an umbrella by day and as a bed by night. He carries his luggage in two bundles, one on his back and the other in front, usually labeled with the name of the shrine he is to visit, and somewhere about his person there is hung a little bell which tinkles as he stumps over the weary road from mountain to mountain.

Where Pilgrim "Loafs and Invites His Soul"

In Nikko, though he does not come especially to visit the tombs of the Shoguns, he "loafs and invites his soul" within the shadow of the two great mausolea of the founder of the line and his grandson, the merciless enemy of Christianity, which stand on the side of the mountain. Up, up, up, he climbs through courtyard and garden, past one splendor after another until

the community of a country-side, a village, a town, or a State; because, where absolute isolation is the dominant obsession of a man, there can be, strictly speaking, no such thing as a united state.

"They have sought and found for themselves complete isolation. They seem to have none of the instincts of agricultural man and they are wholly inhospitable.

"The entrances to their dwellings are high up in the almost perpendicular walls of the cliffs, and they are reached solely by means of long poles, which are light enough to be drawn up when the lord of the den and his family are safely housed. And when housed they really are safe from intrusion, for it would require a host to force an entrance against the will of the family.

"One ancient writer tells us that some Troglodytes made a practice of killing all those who were not in first-rate physical condition, on the ground that a man who cannot earn his own living has no right to live; and when one sees these dwellings, one can imagine still another reason for killing off the aged and the infirm—because of their inability to get in or out of the house."

Tear off along this line if desired.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

How Sugar Made Cuba a World El Dorado

SUGAR, like shoes, we once took for granted. But procuring enough for the preserving season was a problem and sugar "speakeasies" still are not uncommon in lands where the supply is rationed. Whereas the high prices troubled the American consumer a few months ago, the falling prices now disturb the Cuban producer.

Writing to the National Geographic Society, William Joseph Showalter says:

"With a sugar production nearly doubled and prices more than quadrupled since 1912, one can readily see why Cuba is the world's El Dorado of 1920, and why sugar is its king.

"The imagination is almost overpowered in attempting to comprehend the vast proportions of the sugar industry of the island as it exists this year.

Enough Wagon Loads of Cane to Girdle Globe

"The cane produced is of such tremendous volume that a procession of bull teams four abreast, reaching around the earth, would be required to move it. The crop would suffice to build a solid wall around the entire 2,000 miles of the island's coast-line as high as an ordinary dwelling house and thick enough for a file of four men to walk abreast on it.

"The sugar extracted from this cane would load a fleet of steamers reaching from Havana to New York, with a ship for every mile of the 1,200 that stretch between the two ports. The great pyramid of Cheops, before whose awe-inspiring proportions millions of people have stood and gazed in open-mouthed amazement, remains, after 5,000 years, unrivaled as a monumental pile; but Cuba's sugar output this year would make two pyramids, each outbasing and overtopping Cheops.

Wealth Produced Also Is Astounding

"The wealth the outgoing sugar crop brings in is not less remarkable in its proportions. Four hundred dollars out of a single crop for every human being who lives on the island—a sum almost as great as the per capita wealth produced by all the farms, all the factories, and all the mines of the United States!

"What wonder, then, that Cuba today is a land of gold and gems, richer than Midas ever was, converting Crœsus, by contrast, into a beggar!

"Sugar-cane is grown by three classes of planters in Cuba. Perhaps the major part of the crop is grown by share farmers, or 'colonas,' as they are called. The owners of the sugar-mills furnish them with a given number of acres of land to plant and give them an agreed share of the sugar they produce.

he reaches the beautiful temple and the actual burial place of a line of rulers who usurped the sovereignty of the Empire and held it for almost three centuries, making the few years covering the glory of Napoleon and Cromwell insignificant indeed. When the pilgrim reaches the top of the mountain he prays. Then he smokes a pipe or two and leisurely takes up his journey to the next shrine.

Symphony of Blooming Lotus Flower

In August the pilgrim rolls off his mat and the visitor from foreign lands climbs out of bed at the crack of dawn to hear the lotus flower bloom, for the buds burst with a pleasing characteristic sound.

If Nikko is the most beautiful city in Japan, Kyoto can be called the most interesting. Here the feminine visitor finds herself bewildered by the most exquisitely wrought of all the exquisite pottery, cloisonné, bronzes, fans and velvets. After she has bought more than she can comfortably get home with, she probably will want to see a bit of the Mikado's palace which covers over twenty-five acres of ground and is surrounded by a great wall with six gates, or journey out to see the largest lake in Japan, Lake Biwa, and the 1,200-year-old pine tree which stands near it.

Tear off along this line if desired.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

When The Near East Is Civilized

ROUGHLY speaking, Turkey was divided into five great provinces, or districts—Anatolia, Armenia, Kurdistan, Mesopotamia, and Syria.

With this introduction William H. Hall, writing to the National Geographic Society, sketches the resources of Turkey, which have an opportunity for development as measures are introduced to lessen the horrors of misrule, injustice, deportations, massacres and famines.

"The land of Turkey looks out on the present from a historic past that is the study of all ages," he continues. "Out of that past speaks military power and material wealth, literature and art, philosophy and religion. And that land which today lies desolate, with its marvelous natural resources neglected, and its people, who were the glory of the past, repressed by injustice, cruelty and tyranny—that land possesses today the same elements that made it the first to develop a modern civilization.

Broad Plains Once Fed and Clothed 40,000,000 People

"The same broad plains that once fed and clothed a population of 40,000,000 human beings are waiting today for the plow, the seed and the reaper. The mountains still hold riches of coal and iron and copper. The quarries still have abundance of choice marbles. The rivers are potent with power to turn the wheels of industry. The natural harbors invite the fleets of merchantmen and the river valleys and mountain passes offer natural lines of communication and transportation, as in the days when great caravans passed along these natural highways, bringing the merchandise of the east to the markets of the west.

"The whole land has been lying fallow for centuries—a land that modern exploration reveals as one of the richest in natural resources and as unsurpassed by its geographic location for being the trade center of the world.

Pre-War Area Nearly That of Alaska

"Exclusive of Arabia, which was never more than nominally under the Ottoman dominion, the Turkish Empire embraced about 540,000 square miles of territory at the beginning of the World War. Only about 10,000 square miles of this were in Europe. The Turkish Empire was equivalent to the combined areas of the British Isles, France and pre-war Germany. It was larger than all of the area east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers.

"The boundaries were the Black Sea and Caucasus on the north, Egypt on the south, the Aegean and Mediterranean seas on the west, and the Syrian desert and Persia on the east.

"Turkey in Europe was almost a negligible area, as the Balkan wars stripped the Turks of all their European possessions except Constantinople

UMI

How Land-Owning Farmers Operate

"The next class is composed of the land-owning farmers, who grow their own cane and have it ground on shares, after the fashion of the rural grist mill. The remainder of the cane is grown by the owners of the mills themselves. At some centrals the 'administration' cane, as that grown under 'central' management is known, amounts to only 4 per cent of the total; at others it amounts to 90 per cent.

"Even the share farmer, at pre-war prices, made money. According to 'Cuba Before the World,' the official handbook of the Republic at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, when sugar was selling at 2.62 cents a pound, his share of the sugar brought him, on the basis of twelve sacks to the acre, a return of from $46 to $51 per acre. The return of the planter owning his land was from $56 to $61 per acre. When one remembers that the selling price of sugar is from four to six times as high in 1920 as it was then, the size of the per-acre income today is apparent.

Seed-Time Comes Only Once in a Decade

"How much net profit the cane-grower reaps at 1920 prices is hard to estimate, but that it is large will appear when the methods of cane-growing are stated. To begin with, after the first crop the planter does not have to bother with seed-time for about ten years. The soil is so deep and so fertile that one planting produces ten harvests. Neither does cultivation bother him after the first season, for the blades stripped from one crop form a mulch that keeps the weeds from competing with the next one.

"Think of the profits that the American farmer would make out of corn if he could get ten crops from one planting, and did not have to plow nine of them at all to keep down the weeds!

"Another item in the low cost of producing sugar is the cheapness of the motive power. The cane is hauled in ox-carts. The oxen live from six to ten months a year on the blades stripped from the harvested stalks, and the remainder of the year on succulent guinea-grass. Think how prosperous would be the American farmer if he could have animal motive power requiring not a pound of grain to feed it."

and a narrow territory along the Bosporus and Dardanelles some 40 miles in width; so that when the Turkish Empire has been referred to in recent years, Asiatic Turkey was all that the term embraced, except the city of Constantinople and a small amount of adjacent territory."

Bulletin No. 5, Nov. 1, 1920

AN ARAB OF THE BENI SAKHR TRIBE